

natural protein, whereas the present invention is directed to the use of a synthetic conjugate of a protein and the Gal α 1, 3Gal epitopes in medicine. This reference does not ever mention such conjugates.

It is further noted that the conjugates disclosed in the present application are surprising effective in binding IgM, as demonstrated in Figure I, where the results obtained in a binding assay for a conjugate of the present invention are far superior to those obtained for a PAA- Gal α 1, 3Gal conjugate. As explained at p. 4, lines 10 to 20 of the present application, this indicates that conjugates of the present invention are likely to be particularly useful in preventing or alleviating xenograft rejection.

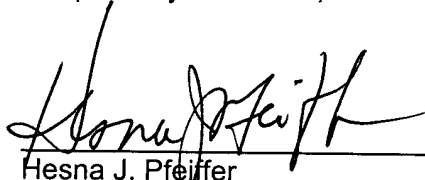
Regarding the priority claim, the Applicant has submitted the certified copy of the priority documents in parent application, USSN 09/025,989, filed 02/19/98, now abandoned. Acknowledgment of this by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

The Office Action of August 14 2002 had a shortened statutory time set to expire on November 14, 2002. A two-months' extension, until January 14, 2003 is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation in the amount of \$400 for payment of the extension fee. An additional copy of this paper is here enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis

Respectfully submitted,


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